
A NEW COMBINATION IN *CHASMANTHIUM* (POACEAE)

Yates (1966a, b) treated *Chasmanthium* Link as a genus distinct from *Uniola* L., based primarily on differences in embryo structure, leaf anatomy and epidermal micromorphology, and chromosome number. He recognized five species within *Chasmanthium*, *C. latifolium* (Michaux) Yates, *C. laxum* (L.) Yates, *C. sessiliflorum* (Poiret) Yates, *C. nitidum* (Baldwin) Yates, and *C. ornithorhynchum* (Steudel) Yates. During preparation of a treatment of this genus for the *Manual of North American Grasses*, it became evident to me that two of these species, *C. laxum* and *C. sessiliflorum*, were morphologically very similar and showed significant overlap in several quantitative features, including leaf length and width, panicle length, number of florets per spikelet, and spikelet length and width. The only consistent qualitative differences between them are the pubescent leaf collars and more or less divergent panicle branches of *C. sessiliflorum* as contrasted with the glabrous leaf collars and appressed panicle branches of *C. laxum*. In addition, the two taxa are almost completely sympatric; they extend from New Jersey to Texas and Oklahoma. Given their similarities and sympatry, I feel that these two taxa are best treated as subspecies of *C. laxum* rather than as distinct species. The new combination for *C. sessiliflorum* is presented here.

***Chasmanthium laxum* (L.) Yates subsp. *laxum*.** *Holcus laxus* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 1048. 1753. TYPE: U.S.A. Virginia: Clayton 589 (lectotype, here designated, LINN, microfiche consulted; isolectotype, BM). *Uniola laxa* (L.)

Britton, Sterns & Pogg., Prelim. Cat. 69. 1888.

Uniola gracilis Michaux, Fl. Bor. Amer. 1: 71. 1803. TYPE: "Hab. in umbrosis sylvarum, a Carolina ad Georgiam" (holotype, P not seen). *Chasmanthium gracile* (Michaux) Link, Hort. Berol. 1: 159. 1827.

Uniola virgata Bartram ex Pursh, Fl. Amer. Sept. 1: 82. 1814, nomen nudum.

Uniola uniflora Benke, Rhodora 31: 148. 1929. TYPE: U.S.A. Tennessee: Memphis, 1928, Benke 4874 (holotype, F not seen; isotype, BM).

***Chasmanthium laxum* (L.) Yates subsp. *sessiliflorum* (Poiret) L. Clark, comb. et stat. nov.** *Uniola sessiliflora* Poiret in Lam., Encycl. 8: 185. 1808. TYPE: "Cette plante n'a été communiquée par M. Bosc, qui l'a recueillie dans la Caroline" (holotype, P not seen; isotype, US fragment). *Poa sessiliflora* (Poiret) Kunth, Révis. Gramin. 1: 111. 1829. *Chasmanthium sessiliflorum* (Poiret) Yates, Southw. Naturalist 11: 426. 1966.

Uniola longifolia Scribner, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 21: 229. 1894. TYPE: U.S.A. Georgia: De Kalb Co., Little Stone Mountain, 1893, Small s. n. (lectotype, here designated, US).

LITERATURE CITED

YATES, H. O. 1966a. Morphology and cytology of *Uniola* (Gramineae). Southw. Naturalist 11: 145-189.

———. 1966b. Revision of grasses traditionally referred to *Uniola*, II. *Chasmanthium*. Southw. Naturalist 11: 415-455.

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